

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

HB 2607 – SB 2634

March 11, 2016

SUMMARY OF ORIGINAL BILL: Directs the Commissioner of the Department of Transportation (TDOT), in consultation with the Commissioner of the Department of Safety, to petition the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for a certificate of authority to operate unmanned aerial systems (UASs) within the three grand divisions of the state. Requires TDOT to promulgate rules in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act. Prohibits any political subdivision from prohibiting the use of a UAS within the boundaries of the political subdivision, if such a system complies with all state and federal laws and regulations.

Authorizes a high school student who completed a college-level course or other accredited training program related to UASs to receive credit towards graduation. Authorizes such credit to be substituted for the required credit in computer education or for two credits in an elective course. Requires the Commissioner of TDOT to establish standards for UASs used with the construction and maintenance of county highways and bridges, consistent with any petition by the Commissioner to the federal aviation administration for a certificate of authority to operate aerial systems.

Adds to the definition of a “motor vehicle” a UAS weighing more than 10 pounds. Defines a UAS as an unmanned aircraft along with the associated support equipment, control station, data links, telemetry, and communication and navigation equipment necessary to operate the unmanned aircraft. Prohibits any person to be in control of any UAS on any streets, alleys, public roads, highways or on the premises of any shopping center, trailer park, apartment house complex while under the influence of alcohol or any controlled substance.

Prohibits airport authorities from prohibiting the launching, operation, or landing of an UAS. Authorizes airport authorities to reasonably regulate such activities in the interest of public safety. Authorizes metropolitan airport authorities to establish regulations related to the launching, operation, and landing of UASs with the geographic area encompassed by the airport. Prohibits a metropolitan airport authority from designating the launching, operation, or landing of UAS as a hazard.

Authorizes the Commissioner of TDOT to promulgate and enforce any rules necessary to ensure safe launching, operation, and landing of UASs, operated consistent with FAA regulations, for updating, maintaining, performing maintenance on, or inspecting billboards.

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

Increase State Expenditures – Exceeds \$500,000/Highway Fund

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (013732): Deletes all language of the original bill. Authorizes a high school student who completed a college-level course or other accredited training program related to unmanned aerial systems to receive credit towards graduation. Requires the State Board of Education to approve appropriate courses for which credit for the training may be substituted.

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

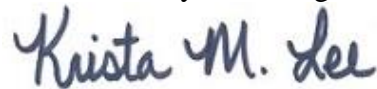
NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- The proposed bill as amended would require the State Board of Education to approve all college level courses or any accredited training program towards graduation for training credit.
- Any fiscal impact due to the State Board of Education approving such credit is estimated to be not significant.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Krista M. Lee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista M. Lee, Executive Director

/tdb